GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1105
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
CHANGE IN QUALITY STANDARDS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) charges any fees for using its quality standard marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for fixing such charges;

(c) whether some amendments have been made by the Government in criteria for fixing and collecting charges for using standard marks by tyre manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons for delay in implementation of such amendments;

(e) the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is operating the Certification Marks Scheme. The fee is levied on a product to meet administrative and the related developmental and surveillance expenses incurred by BIS for rendering the necessary services in relation to certification of product. The criteria for fixing such charges includes cost of market samples, cost of testing and overhead expenses.

(c) : No amendment has been made in the said criteria. However, the marking fee for tyre was revised by BIS on 15th June, 1994 which was notified on 27th June, 2005.

(d) : The marking Fees revised on 15 June 1994 was informed to all the licensees. Though the revised Marking Fees should have been gazetted as per the BIS Regulations, the same could not be done. The matter remained under deliberation in BIS and a final decision in the matter could only be reached in June 2005 when the rates were finalized and gazetted.

(e) : Amount of Rs 1.63 crores mentioned in Para no 4.1 of Report No. 3 of 2007 of CAG is only a notional amount of loss as the revised marking fees was not gazetted and it was not legally possible to recover the dues.

(f) : The issue of fixing responsibility was investigated within BIS. It was determined that the collective responsibility rested with the then Head of Central Marks Department-I, the dealing officer and the Section Officer. However, all the delinquent officers have since retired and hence even though the responsibility stands fixed on them, no disciplinary action can be initiated against any of them due to time bar as per CCS (CCA) Rules.